

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14-23, 25-28 and 30-33 are pending. The Applicant's attorney has amended claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31, canceled claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claim 33. In light of the following, all of the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance, and, therefore, the Applicants' attorney requests the Examiner to withdraw all of the outstanding rejections. If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, he is requested to schedule a teleconference with the Applicant's attorney to further the prosecution of the application.

Rejection of Claims 1-11, 14-28 and 30-32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Being Anticipated By U.S. Patent 5,479,138 to Kuroda et al.

Claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31

Amended claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31 recite in part a plurality of unequally spaced bridging conductors that electrically couple the conductive regions of the conductive plane across the openings.

For example, referring, e.g., to paragraphs 27-29 of the present application, "at least one" bridging conductor 64 may be formed in the conductive plane 60, where the spacing between the bridging conductors may be "unequal."

Kuroda, on the other hand, does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of unequally spaced bridging conductors that electrically couple the conductive regions of the conductive plane across the openings. Instead, Kuroda, at, e.g., FIGS. 1A-1B, col. 1, lines 13-23 and col. 4, lines 8-13 simply discloses grounding conductor wiring grids G1, G2 having not only "openings at regular intervals," but also having "an equal pitch in both the lengthwise and breadthwise directions." Furthermore, throughout Kuroda, a single value Sg determines the width of all of the openings of the grids G1, G2. Not only does this require that all of the openings of the grids G1, G2 be perfect squares, but it also requires that all of the lines of the grids G1, G2 be equally spaced apart. Therefore, claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31 are not anticipated by Kuroda.

Claims 2-11, 14-16, 18-23, 27 and 32

These claims are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31 as amended.

Claim 33

New claim 33 is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31.

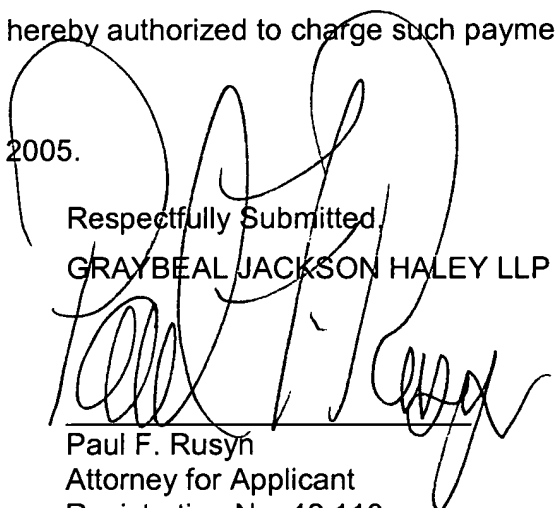
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, claims 2-11, 14-16, 18-23, 27 and 32 as previously pending, claims 1, 17, 25-26, 28 and 30-31 as amended, and new claim 33 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

DATED this 23rd day of May, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,
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